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YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

ANNUAL  
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. C. E. EDWARDS, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

and the

Public Health Inspector

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.H, M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR 1964



# THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

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To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report for the health and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1964.

The health of the district during the year has on the whole been good, the majority of deaths being in the higher age groups. There has been an absence of any serious outbreaks of epidemic disease. The incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis has been low, cases occurring have been adequately and quickly dealt with by the Chest Physicians at the Adelina Patti Memorial Hospital, Craigynos, Penrycae.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. Inspections have been carried out from time to time of various food handling stores, bake houses, licensed premises and shops selling ice cream in accordance with the regulations. Minor defects have been pointed out and corrected. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Byelaws.

The rehousing of families from unfit dwellings continues together with applicants from the ordinary lists in cases of hardship, illness and overcrowding.

Tenants are selected with the assistance of a Points Scheme adopted by the Council so as to allocate houses to families in the greatest need, conditions of existing accommodation, overcrowding and health circumstances, all rating for "points award".

When Council houses are allocated to applicants their old houses are inspected with a view to future use being considered. These houses, if they are unfit for human habitation and cannot be repaired at a reasonable expense are then covered by a Demolition Order or Closing Order.

I wish to tender my best thanks to the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health. Also the Officers of the Council for their help in all matters appertaining to the duties of the Health Department.

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

CREIGHTON E. EDWARDS  
B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.  
*(Medical Officer of Health)*

## SEWERAGE

The whole district is on main drainage with one sewerage disposal works. The disposal plant has been working normally and the sewerage effluent complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission.

## STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

The district of two parishes, Ystradgynlais Higher and Ystradgynlais Lower, their respective areas 13,182 and 9,016 a. total of 22,198 acres.

Population : 10,710.

Industries : Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher and is more thickly populated. The chief industries are coal mining, watch making, light engineering and furniture manufacture, quarrying and agriculture.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

*Ystradgynlais R.D.C. Brecon C.C.*

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of legitimate live births	....89	81	170	813
No. of illegitimate live births	.... 7	2	9	48
Total live births	....96	83	179	861
Birth Rate per 1000 population				
1963			16.71	15.85.
Registrar General comparability factor			1.05	
No. of still births legitimate	.... 2	3	5	17
No. of still births illegitimate	.... —	—	—	—
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	....			5.027
Total live and still births	....98	86	184	878
Still births per 1000 live and still births	....		27.17	19.36

## DEATHS

Total deaths for district	....	87	70	157	742
Crude death rate per 1000 of population	....	....		14.66	13.65
Registrar General comparability factor	....	....	....	1.16	
Corrective Death rate				17.0	

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

NIL

## INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Legitimate	....	....	....	4	2	6	30
Illegitimate	...	....	....	—	—	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	....	....	....			22.35	34.84

Neo Natal Mortality Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :

Legitimate	....	....	....	1	2	3	20
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—	—
Total	....	....	....	1	2	3	20
Neo Natal Mortality rate per 1000 live births	....	....	....			16.76	22.06

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age :

Legitimate	...	....	...	1	2	3	17
Illegitimate	....	...	....	—	—	—	—
Total	....	....	....	1	2	3	17

Early Neo Natal Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	....			16.76	19.74
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## PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of  
age plus number of still births :

No. of deaths under 1 week of age	1	2	3
No. of still births	2	3	5
Perinatal mortality rate			43.48

## CANCER DEATHS

No. of deaths from malignant  
neoplasms and lymphatic

neoplasms	7	15	22
Cancer death rate			2.054

## CAUSES OF DEATHS

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	13	15
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	20	33
Coronary disease, angina	25	11	36
Hypertension with heart disease	2	2	4
Other heart disease	6	5	11
Other circulatory disease	6	5	11
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	1	2	3
Bronchitis	6	1	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	7	—	7
Congenital malformations	2	—	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	6	14
Motor vehicle accidents	—	1	1
All other accidents	2	—	2
Suicide	1	—	1
<b>All causes</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>157</b>

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Measles .... 8

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases Notified

				<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Respiratory	....	....	....	1	4	5
Non-respiratory	....	....	....	—	1	1
						—
						6
						—

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

**General Medical :** Beck Laboratory General Hospital,  
Swansea

**Water Supplies :** Public Health Laboratory Services,  
Carmarthen

**Milk :** Public Health Laboratory Services, Carmarthen.

## HOSPITAL SERVICES

*Infectious Diseases :* The infectious disease Hospital is situated at Hill House Swansea and is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

*General Hospital Facilities :* General Hospital facilities are provided for at Swansea General Hospital, Morriston Hospital and the West Glamorgan Hospital at Neath, all of which are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

*Ambulance Services :* There are two Ambulances in the district and they are under the control of the Breconshire County Council.



## WATER SUPPLY

There are five piped supplies in the area, four of which are chlorinated. The water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity and every house has its own piped supply, except in the case of a few scattered dwellings such as isolated farms. There has been no evidence of any form of contamination. There are no stand pipes supplies.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Water Supply</b>	<b>Results</b>
11.1.64	Garwleisiau	Satisfactory
	Colbren	"
	Lion	"
	Ffrydiau Twrch	"
6.2.64	Ffrydiau Twrch	"
	Colbren	"
	Garwleisiau	"
	Lion	"
7.3.64	Lion	"
	Garwleisiau	"
	Colbren	"
	Ffrydiau Twrch	"
17.4.64	Colbren	"
	Garwleisiau	"
	Lion	"
	Ffrydiau Twrch	"
15.5.64	Lion	"
	Ffrydiau Twrch	"
	Garwleisiau	"
	Colbren	"
20.6.64	Ffrydiau Twrch	"
	Colbren	"
	Lion	"
	Garwleisiau	"

16.7.64	Garwleisiau	„
	Lion	„
	Colbren	„
	Ffrydiau Twrch	„
29.8.64	Ffrydiau Twrch	„
	Colbren	„
	Lion	„
	Garwleisiau	„
11.9.64	Colbren	„
	Ffrydiau Twrch	„
	Garwleisiau	„
	Lion	„
15.10.64	Ffrydiau Twrch	Unsatisfactory
	Garwleisiau	„
	Colbren	Satisfactory
	Lion	„
12.11.64	Colbren	„
	Garwleisiau	„
	Lion	„
	Ffrydiau Twrch	„
12.12.64	Colbren	„
	Lion	„
	Ffrydiau Twrch	„
	Garwleisiau	„

# The Public Health Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour of presenting my report for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

32 families were rehoused during the year, and 31 houses were brought up to the standard of fitness required by the Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954.

Routine inspections of food premises were made and advice given where necessary. The inspection of locally killed meat was maintained at 100%.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act came into force during the year and all premises falling within its scope were registered.

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES,  
*(Public Health Inspector)*

## GENERAL INSPECTIONS

### Housing Inspections and Re-inspections (Housing & Public Health Acts.)

Water Supply	....	....	....	....	13
Drainage	....	....	....	....	54
Housing Inspections	....	....	....	....	362
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	....	4
Verminous Premises	....	....	....	....	0
Factories & Workshops	....	....	....	....	2
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	....	0
Atmospheric Pollution	....	....	....	....	0
Rodent Control	....	....	....	....	0
Refuse Collection & Disposal	....	....	....	....	124
Butchers	....	....	....	....	228
Canteens	....	....	....	....	21
Grocers	....	....	....	....	35
Fried Fish Shops	....	....	....	....	6
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	5
Miscellaneous Food Visits	....	....	....	....	48
Food Preparing Premises	....	....	....	....	28
Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	....	2
Tents, Vans & Sheds	....	....	....	....	36
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	21
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	....	....	....	....	25
Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	....	209
Offices & Shops Act	....	....	....	....	90
Schools	....	....	....	....	3
Hospitals	....	....	....	....	1

### Sampling Visits :

Milk	....	....	....	....	7
Ice Cream	....	....	....	....	13

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1337

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## INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

(a)	Total Number of dwellinghouses inspected during the year. (Public Health & Housing Acts)	
(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose .....	362
	Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices .....	6
	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the Local Authority.....	6
	Action under the Statutory Powers during the year	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts 1936 .....	0
(1)	No. of dwellinghouses in respect of of which Notices were served requiring repairs .....	3
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices .....	4
(a)	By Owner .....	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners .....	0
(b)	Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Acts 1936 .....	0
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	1
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	1
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses closed in pursuance of undertaking given by owners under Section 11.....	3

(4)	Statutory Notices served under Water Act .....	0
(5)	Number complied with .....	0
(c)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 .....	0
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit. ....	0

## **NOTICES SERVED**

### **Under the Housing Act :**

Number of Informal Notices served .....	0
Number of Informal Notices complied with....	0
Number of Formal Notices served .....	0
Number of Formal Notices complied with ....	0

### **Under the Public Health Act :**

Number of Informal Notices served .....	10
Number of Informal Notices complied with....	6
Number of Formal Notices served .....	4
Number of Formal Notices complied with ....	4

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

### **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

Both collection and disposal is carried out by direct labour and three collections weekly are made with the exception of main shopping centre where the collections are carried out daily. The total tonnage collected during the year was 9,687 tons.

Three sites are used for tipping, Pantmawr, Rheolau and Yniswen ; at these tips a measure of controlled tipping is practised. Waste material from building operations and County Council road sweepings are used for covering purposes levelling and tidying up being done by the Bristol Tractor. Infestation on the tips is kept under control by the Rodent Operator.

### **DISINFECTION**

Four houses were disinfected during the year which is a reflection on the low incidence of infectious diseases in the locality. Fumigation by formalin gas was carried out in these cases and a free supply of liquid disinfectant for the use of house-holders concerned in washing down the premises, bed-clothes, drains etc.

### **MILK SUPPLY**

Milk delivery vans were inspected under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 and were found to be satisfactorily kept. During the year 5 samples of milk were taken for analysis from schools in the area all of which were reported as being satisfactory.

## ICE CREAM

Only three premises are now used in the district for the manufacture of ice-cream - the greater quantity of this commodity now being sold in pre-packed form in shops and received from the large nationally known manufacturers from without the area. The local ice-cream factories are regularly inspected, particularly during the summer months and a satisfactory degree of cleanliness is always observed. 35 samples were taken for analysis from these premises with the following results :

No. of samples	35
No. in Grade 1	30
No. in Grade 2	2
No. in Grade 3	3
No. in Grade 4	0

It is encouraging to note from these figures that by far the greater number of samples were placed in Grade 1 and that none was placed in Grade 4.

## FRIED FISH SHOPS

A register of Fried Fish Shops is kept and five premises throughout the area have been registered. Inspections are made during the daytime when preparation for the evening's business is carried on, also occasional visits are made during the evening. I have no cause to report any serious breach of of the regulations.

## PRESERVED FOODS

Ten premises have been registered under the Food & Drugs Act as premises for the manufacture of preserved foods. These are butchers shops or butchery departments at Co-operative Stores where sausages are made. A separate room is used for the manufacturing process and a high standard of cleanliness is demanded at these premises. The premises, including the utensils are inspected and examined thoroughly. Every effort is made to inspect these premises at least once a month more often than not during the hours of manufacturing.



## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

During the year the following slaughterhouses were registered :

1. Danygraig, Colbren, occupied by Mr. John Jeffreys.
2. Glangiedd, Cwmgiedd, occupied by Mr. T. J. E. Thomas.

These slaughterhouses are inspected regularly, together with all animals slaughtered therein.

## MEAT INSPECTION

Inspections were systematically made at the Colbren and Cwmgiedd slaughterhouses and with only two slaughterhouses to cope with and a limited amount of slaughtering it was possible to obtain almost 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered during the year. In all 209 visits were made for this purpose and the following is a list of animals inspected :

<i>Animals Inspected</i>	<i>Parts condemned Diseases except T.B. &amp; Cysticerci.</i>	<i>Whole Carcases Condemned. All diseases except Cysticerci.</i>
Beasts	103	193 Parts (Liver)
Cows	NIL	334 lbs.
Calves	NIL	
Sheep	921	
Pigs	19	

Meat imported into the district is also inspected from time to time.

## FOOD PREMISES

Food shops, canteens and restaurants were visited regularly and the Food Hygiene Regulations were brought to the notice of all persons in charge or employed in such premises.

Following is a list of food condemned during the year as being unfit for human consumption.

Beef	96 lbs
Cooked Ham	75 lbs
Corned Beef	9 tins
Crisps	144 pkts
Ham	27 lbs
Onions	30 lbs
Pork	434 lbs
Sponge Pudding	1 pkt
Tinned Beans	9 tins
Tinned Beetroot	34 tins
Tinned Cream	4 tins
Tinned Fruit	162 tins
Tinned Meat	95 tins
Tinned Peas	52 tins
Tinned Salmon	4 tins
Tinned Fruit	4 tins
Tinned Tomatoes	80 tins

## SEWAGE EFFLUENT

Samples of sewage effluent were taken at the Council's Sewage Works prior to being discharged into the River Tawe and on these the Public Analyst summarised as follows :

### **Sample No. 1 (18th March, 1964)**

The high nitrate figure and the low albuminoid value show that most of the impurities in the sewage had been oxidised by the plant. This effluent was highly satisfactory having a very low B.O.D. figure and also complying with the Royal Commission Standard as to Matter in Suspension. This effluent was suitable for discharging into any stream or watercourse and its quality reflected credit on maintenance of the plant. Highly Satisfactory.

### **Sample No. 2. (9th June, 1964)**

This was a well purified effluent as may be seen from the high nitrate content and the small amount of unoxidised albuminoid matter.

The matter in suspension was well below the limit of 30 p.p.m. recommended by the Royal Commission, and the B.O.D. likewise was well below the 20 p.p.m. limit imposed by the same Authority.

It was an effluent which could be discharged into any freshwater stream, and reflects credit on the maintenance of the plant.

### **Sample No. 3. (13th October, 1964)**

This was a highly satisfactory effluent, having a low B.O.D. figure and the matter in suspension well below the Royal Commission limit of 30 p.p.m. It will be seen that

the effluent contained ten times as much nitrogen in the form of nitrates as of nitrogen in the form of albuminoid compounds

This shows that the bacterial beds were working effectively and reflects credit on their maintenance. Highly Satisfactory.

## **HOUSING**

20 new houses became ready during the year and were allocated and also 12 old houses were re-allocated - thus 32 families being rehoused during the year.

4 unfit houses were dealt with under the Housing Act and the families re-housed and repairs were carried out to 9 houses following the service of notices under the Public Health Act.

## **HOUSING SURVEY - FUTURE NEEDS**

The advantages from building small old age pensioners bungalows has been long realised by the Council and in order to ascertain the exact position a survey of all Council houses occupied by one person only in our area was carried out and it was found that of the 44 such cases existing 24 were prepared to give up their houses for bungalows. As a result the Council can calculate on having 24 houses at their disposal when new bungalows will be built. Whilst admitting that solving the housing problem is akin to chasing the rainbow I am confident that 50 or 60 bungalows would go a long way towards meeting our housing needs for the next year or two. These should cope with Slum Clearance and also the top 40 or so on our waiting list.

## **Repairs to existing Houses**

Good use is being made of Standard and Discretionary Grants and the Surveyor reports that the following improvements were carried out :

Standard Grants 10.	Grant Payable £928
Discretionary Grants 21.	Grant Payable £4,976
Total £5,905	

This means that 31 houses were brought up to the standard of fitness required by the Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954, thus saving the need of building this number of houses at the approximate cost of £64,000.

## OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act came into force during the year and a survey was carried out to all premises covered by the Act, a total of 139 visits. The following is a synopsis of the information gathered from the survey :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>No Registered</i>	<i>Persons Employed</i>
Offices	21	41
Retail Shops	25	53
Wholesale Shops	—	—
Catering Establishments	1	1
Fuel Storage Depot	1	8
Offices and Shops Combined	—	52
	<hr/> 48	<hr/> 155

It was found that 28 were falling short of the requirements of the Act and notices were served requesting them to bring their premises up to standard. These notices will be followed up during the coming year.

## RAINFALL

January	....	....	....	1.10 ins
February	....	....	....	2.03 ins
March	....	....	....	3.39 ins.
April	....	....	....	3.63 ins.
May	....	....	....	3.26 ins.
June	....	....	....	2.40 ins.
July	....	....	....	4.50 ins.
August	....	....	....	3.27 ins.
September	....	....	....	2.60 ins.
October	....	....	....	3.63 ins.
November	....	....	....	6.03 ins.
December	....	....	....	11.13 ins.
				<hr/>
				46.97 ins.
				<hr/>

## RODENT CONTROL

The work of the Rodent Operator during the year is summarised as follows: —

Sewers	....	....	....	1
Refuse Tips	....	....	....	13
River Banks		....	....	19
Premises	....	....	....	630
Disinfestation		....	....	45
				<hr/>
				708
				<hr/>

I am,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. EMLYN JONES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

*Public Health Inspector.*



WELSH

REC

31 JAN 1966

A.